

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of ~~claim 3~~ claim 11 wherein said sidewall of said receptacle defines a second threaded portion extending through said top wall of said casing and located below said first-named threaded portion; and further including a threaded nut received on said second threaded portion to secure said receptacle to said casing.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said opening of said receptacle includes a generally rectangular cavity for receiving said Ethernet connector; and

a pair of opposing recesses for receiving projecting ears of locating said Ethernet connectors relative to said receptacle.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of ~~claim 1~~ claim 11 further comprising a printed circuit board within said casing, said quick disconnect connector including a plurality of connecting pins coupled with said circuit board.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of ~~claim 7~~ claim 12 wherein said quick disconnect connector includes an exterior cylindrical wall defining a peripheral recess, said cylindrical wall extending through an aperture in an upper wall of a reduce portion of said casing, said apparatus further including a sealing ring in said peripheral recess of said ~~of said~~ quick disconnect connector.

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (NEW) A switching hub for Ethernet network comprising:
- a casing including a top wall;
 - a plurality of industrial connector assemblies mounted to said top wall and extending therethrough, each connector assembly including a receptacle of rigid non-conducting material defining an opening and an externally threaded extension extending exterior of said top wall of said casing, each receptacle further including a peripheral flange for engaging said top wall of said casing when said receptacle is assembled thereto, each receptacle of said connector assembly further including a side wall extending through an associated aperture in said top wall of said casing, a peripheral groove in said peripheral flange and a curved recess adjacent said side wall of said receptacle extending adjacent said externally threaded extension; and
 - a sealing ring in said peripheral groove for forming a seal between said receptacle and said top wall of said casing;
 - an RJ45 connector received in said opening of said receptacle;
 - a quick disconnect connector including an outer threaded portion mounted to said top wall, an insert of rigid non-conducting material, and a plurality of connecting elements carried by said insert; and
 - an Ethernet switch controller within said casing and including a transceiver circuit coupled to each of said plurality of RJ45 connectors.

12. (NEW) A switching hub for Ethernet network comprising:
- a casing including a wall;
 - a plurality of industrial connector assemblies mounted to said wall and extending therethrough, each connector assembly including a receptacle of rigid non-conducting material defining an opening and an externally threaded extension extending exterior of said wall of said casing;
 - an RJ45 connector received in said opening;
 - a sealing ring interposed between said receptacle and said wall of said casing;
 - a printed circuit board housed within said casing;
 - a quick disconnect connector including an outer threaded portion mounted to said wall, an insert of rigid non-conducting material, a plurality of connecting elements carried by said insert, and a plurality of connecting pins connected to said printed circuit board;
 - an Ethernet switch controller within said casing and including a transceiver circuit coupled to each of said plurality of RJ45 connectors; and
 - an LED indicator for signaling a first color when applied power is of proper polarity and a second color when applied power is reversed in polarity.

13. (NEW) A switching hub for Ethernet network comprising:
- a casing including a top wall,
 - a plurality of industrial connector assemblies mounted to said top wall and extending therethrough, each connector assembly including a receptacle of rigid non-conducting material defining an opening, an externally threaded extension extending exterior of said wall of said casing, and an RJ45 connector received in said opening;
 - a sealing ring interposed between said receptacle and said top wall of said casing;
 - a quick disconnect connector mounted on a side portion of said casing, and including an outer threaded portion mounted to said side portion, an insert of rigid non-conducting material, and a plurality of connecting elements carried by said insert;
 - an Ethernet switch controller within said casing and including a transceiver circuit coupled to each of said plurality of RJ45 connectors; and
 - an LED associated with and adjacent each of said connector assemblies, and adapted to signal the data transmission rate of its associated RJ45 connector.